

A Monthly Newsletter Serving the



Defense Logistics Agency Community

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING (EPP)

Providing Buyers, Catalogers and Item Specialists

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The Information Busy People Need to Keep Current

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The Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) conducts free Teleworkshops on energy efficient products, how to choose them and their benefits. Take some yourself - recommend them to your customers.

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Next Joint Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Group on Environmental Attributes is scheduled to meet on May 14.

Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG)

EPA has recently launched a CPG Supplier Database on its website. It's a searchable database containing information on vendors, manufacturers, and distributors of CPG-designated products. EPA makes reasonable efforts to verify the information is accurate and that the vendors and suppliers meet the CPG's Recovered Materials Advisory Notices (RMAN) recommendations. The database is updated regularly, but contains no pricing information. You can search the database by category of product or specific product, material, or by state. You can also search by typing in the name of a specific supplier. For example, if you wanted to search for suppliers of rubber playground surfaces in the state of California, you can select playground surfaces from the Products list, rubber from the Materials list, and California from the State list. You can reach the database by pointing your browser to:

http://www.ergweb2.com/cpg/user/cpg_search.cfm. Managers of CPG items may wish to look over the list to see whether you're missing vendors with large market presence.

Biobased Products

The US Department of Agriculture has established an electronic "source book" to provide information to about biobased product categories and products. The web based resource is called "Biobased Industrial Products" and its target audience is purchasing professionals and organizations, such as DLA and DLA's customers. Biobased industrial products are produced from renewable plant and animal sources, and are generally more environmentally benign than their petroleum based counterparts. They are usually biodegradable and can be returned to the earth at the end of their useful life or recycled and used again.

USDA invites vendors to register their products under the 12 categories of products listed in the database. In order to register, each vendor must submit, for each product, 3 copies of: the test procedures used to measure biobased content and the test results, their sources of biobased material used to produce the product, company and product

literature, and price and quantity listings. Currently, the only product category in the database that contains actual products is "Lubricants and Functional Fluids." This does not mean no products are yet commercially available in these categories yet, but that either vendors have not registered or the USDA web team is catching up with the submissions. For example, the category "solvents and cleaners" is blank, but there are many biobased solvents and cleaners commercially available. The web site also contains a set of links to non profit and trade groups developing and marketing biobased products. ICPs and technical staff may wish to review the product category and subcategory listings, as well as the private sector links, to see how significantly the development of new biobased product is likely to affect their businesses. You can visit the USDA Biobased Industrial

Products source book by pointing your browsers to: <http://www.usda-biobasedproducts.net/public/default.asp>.

Energy Efficiency

The Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) offers free telecourses on a wide range of energy efficiency topics, including efficient products and how to choose them. The range of courses could be of interest to DLA technical experts, item managers, Customer Service Representatives and DLA customers. Not each course will be of use to everyone. Each course is about 4 hours long and is designed to help facilities managers achieve their goals for under the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct) and Executive Order 13123. The courses are provided via satellite downlink at a wide range of federal facilities, including military installations, worldwide, including Alaska and Hawaii.

The upcoming courses in March include "Operations and Maintenance Management" and "Water Resource Management" offered on March 11; and "Utility Energy Services Contracting" and "Energy Savings Performance Contracting" offered on March 18. For a complete list of courses through October, visit: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/newsevents/training.shtml>.

Registration is required and there is prerequisite work, which should be completed prior to attending the teleworkshop broadcast. There is also follow up work which participants are strongly encouraged to complete after the teleworkshop. Just like taking a course in a real classroom, if you don't prepare beforehand, you could become confused during class.

For a complete set of instructions, including how to register and take the class, visit:

http://www.energyworkshops.org/femp/2003/ewt03_directions.htm. To find out if there is a registered site near you where you can take a course, visit: <http://www.energyworkshops.org/femp/REGIS/downlinkfinder.htm>. Registration can be done on line at: <http://www.energyworkshops.org/femp/>.

Product Highlight - Water Conserving Products **Waterless Urinals**

Since the mid 1990s, waterless urinals have been making inroads on U.S. military installations around the world, particularly in the Southwest U.S.. A friend of this author just reported a first-time experience with one and reports that, despite initial skepticism, he was pleasantly impressed. His first thought was that they would, well, offend his olfactory senses. However, they did not. In fact, he found them less odorous than their wet cousins. While he had never seen one before, he expected them to resemble the gray plastic and unpleasant chemical toilets you find on aircraft. Not true. Again, they looked more like their wet counterparts. They are similar in appearance, mount to the wall in a similar fashion, and have a drain. Since most modern urinals no longer have a visible flushing lever, the waterless urinals looked much the same in that they had none either. In fact, if you weren't paying attention you may not even be aware you're using a waterless urinal. Since about 20 percent of the water used in offices is in urinals, they represent an opportunity to save a lot of water and money. Savings depend on the cost of water, the frequency of use, the gallons per flush of the urinal you're replacing and the local cost for maintenance. Payback figures can range from a decade for infrequently used urinals in a low water cost area, to a few months in a high use and high water cost area. The purchase price of a waterless urinal is about the same as its wet cousin. Installation is less because you need no supply water line connection. In its Dec 01 - Jan 02 issue of Engineering and Construction News, the Army Corps of Engineers featured some web sites promoting them: <http://www.ri-research.com/health/newsandt/Watrless/watrless.htm>, and <http://www.waterless.com/>. The Energy Policy Act of 1992 contained restrictions on the water consumption of devices, including urinals, placed in Federal facilities. MIL-HDBK-1165, Military Handbook on Water Conservation, provides details. In an article written for the Army's Center for Public Works magazine, Public Works Digest (1997), Joseph Dooley with the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations stated "after a balanced consideration the waterless urinal seems to be a water conservation fixture whose time has come. It clearly reduces maintenance costs, and may do so dramatically and immediately for some installations. For about the price of a flush urinal, you can automatically save 1.5 - 3 gallons of water per usage, depending on the model of flush urinal you're replacing...In any new construction, or whenever you plan to replace a flush urinal, waterless urinals should be given serious consideration." Author's Note: The mention of any commercial product or company in any of the websites provided in this newsletter in no way represents any type of by the author, DLA, or the government.